3. The firm had been given a target for achieving satisfactory performance/reliability to the faulty power plants by 30-6-2002.

4. Invocation of performance bank guarantee has been initiated by Chief General Manager Telecom Stores Kolkata on 17.7.02 amounting Rs. 26,01,696/- from Uptron & Rs. 26,45,796/- from Shreetron India Ltd. as the firm has failed to repair the faulty sets.

5. Claim bill being raised against the company on receiving defective status report regarding faulty power plants from Rajasthan Circle.

6. In addition to the above, Quality Assurance Circle has stopped inspection in respect of both the firms after 31.3.2001.

7. Action has been initiated against the delinquent officials for lapses in checking the quality of equipments.

Recovery of Unused cables from Contractors

1626. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sub Divisional Engineers under G.M. Telecom Dhanbad and Jamshedpur Secondary Switching Areas failed to recover unused cable from contractors after completion of cable laying work resulting in a loss of Rs. 2.96 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 10 out of 11 S.D.Es referred to above, made payment of laying charges to the contractors for cable laid far in excess of cable issued, leading to excess payment of Rs. 8.46 lakhs; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken against the contractors and S.D.Es and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Sale of Holdings by VSNL

1627. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that V.S.N.L. had decided to generate an additional amount of Rs. 1000 crore from sale of part of its holdings in Intelset and Inmarsat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government had approved the sale and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) VSNL had proposed disinvestment of their holdings in INTELSAT and INMARSAT to the extent of 75% and 100% along with Initial Public offerings (IPOs) proposed to be issued by these companies. This was accepted in principle. However, it is understood that INMARSAT has already decided not to go for IPO. So far as INTELSAT is concerned, if the IPO takes place, some quantity of VSNL's holding will be sold depending upon the response from other shareholders. Government has given its approval.

Payment of Bill Through E-Seva

1628. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BSNL is accepting only payment of bills through E-seva (electronic delivery of citizen services) that too within the 'due date' and not allowing payment of bills beyond 'due date', not accepting applications for new connection, CLIP facilities, transfer of telephones, etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons behind not allowing the other services, apart from payment of bills that too within 'due date' period;

(c) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in this connection; and

(d) if so, what action his Ministry has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) BSNL has since agreed to the acceptance of telephone bills beyond due date through E-seva. Application concerning